

on Monday the 20th Inst just before the Business of the Session was brought to a Conclusion I received by the Post from New York a Letter from Ld Hillsborough with a Copy of a Circular Letter said to have been sent by the Boston Assembly to the Speakers of the other Colony Assemblies exhorting them to apply by Addresses to His Majesty &c against the new Act of Parliament imposing Duties here on Goods imported from Great Britain. In what light this Circular Letter was seen by the Ministry your Ldp will be able to judge by my inclosed Message which contains the Substance of it, & which I apprehended I could not avoid communicating tho I suspected it would interrupt the harmony which had before subsisted during the whole Session, at first the Members seem'd to be divided about it & to be undetermined what to do but on Wednesday when all the Acts were ready for the Fiat the zealous Patriots produced their answer to my Message or rather to His Ldps Letter in such Terms that had not the Business of the Session been finished I must have thereupon put an End to it, to have acted up to His Ldp's Instruction, & indeed I do not know but I may be now blamed for not dissolving them, but had I done so it would in my opinion have answered no other End than to raise a Ferment here & perhaps in the neighbouring Colonies for the people would be apt to consider it as a Common Cause, & perhaps not to have taken the least Notice of this Circular Letter would have been the best Way to prevent its having the intended Effect, & if the Assemblies had addressed the King as it were unanimously in Consequence of it their being actuated to do so by such Circular Letter might have been given as a Reason for the Addresses being rejected or disregarded which would probably have made the Colonies sick of the Measure, but as Ld Hillsboroughs Letter seemed to leave nothing to my own Judgment. I immediately on the Receipt thereof acted agreeably to what I apprehended was his Intention & I embrace the earliest Opportunity thro your Ldps hands to give His Ldp an account of my own Conduct & of the Proceedings of the Assembly. I am &c.

P. S. The other inclosed Lett^r N^o 4 to Ld Hillsborough is not of material Consequence nevertheless I likewise send your Ldp a Copy of it.

[Sharpe to Sir William Johnson.]

Letter Bk. III

To Sir William Johnson. Annapolis the 27 June 1768.

Sir

The General Assembly having met here the 24th of last Month I communicated to them the two Letters you were